

Affordability Committee – September 18, 2007

Chair: Pat Hanberry. Sally Familton; Pat Rosensteel, Renee Kyttle, Ken Eidel, Carol Antoniewicz, Maria Shuck

Minutes from July 17 were approved.

Executive Committee:

Needs assessment will be presented to BOCC on Oct. 2, to full coalition at the Oct. 3 meeting. Each committee will present a half-page with goals. Oct. 3 is open to those in community interested in the issues. Availability Cmte has published a brief resource guide. Pat will ask to have link to www.coverageforall.org on Health Coalition website, a source for the uninsured to locate affordable coverage. Other committees also decided against dues. We can submit ideas for budget. For the Dec. 12 meeting, Sue Hecht and Rick Weldon will educate the full coalition about legislative processes.

Meeting with Congressman Bartlett, Aug. 31:

Attendees were Pat H., Ken, Helen Monk, Doreen Bass, Carol A.

He had not heard of Frederick Health Care coalition. His view mirrors Pres. Bush, that SCHIP is a move toward socialized medicine. He did agree that children deserve health care. **Carol** will draft letter to editor, urging Bartlett to vote for SCHIP. We should each call Bartlett, OK to mention the Health Care Coalition, point out need for ins. for All children. **Carol** will forward alert from FUSA.

Review Goals:

- 1) educate about legislative process – will be done at Dec. 12 mtg.
- 2) research voting record of Frederick Co. state delegation. **Sally** will research. Both Senators are against tobacco tax.
 - b.) when session starts, provide info to coalition. Health Care for All is pushing \$1 tobacco tax, to be used to allow adults up to 116% to get Medicaid. Discussion and rationale for tobacco tax funding healthcare.
 - c) Should we Md. Health coalition/Health Care for All to speak to full coalition?
- 3) Mobilize to support legislation. American Cancer Society petition were given out to be signed in support of Healthy Md. Initiative. **Carol** will email a link for on-line support.
- 4) Educate legislators and general population about uninsured: We could meet with Delegation in November, can share relevant info from needs assessment. 85% of questions were related to health conditions. **Pat R.** will call Sue Hecht to get date. We'll try to get folks who are uninsured to come and talk. c) develop an "elevator speech", short statement of what is needed, why. We can get info from the needs assessment. d) Identify Civic groups for e) make presentations, can develop fact sheet for website. F) provide resources for community education on website. Link to www.coverageforall.org, www.healthcareforall.com with "Faces of the Uninsured" video.
- 5) Help get people enrolled. Explore: what is currently being done. We can ask Helen to tell us what the schools do. How do people find coverage ?? Rene shared difficulties of not having coverage for young adult son. Many folks do not go to ER for fear of big bills.

Other:

Carol shared a news article about Howard Co. Health Dept. developing a network to provide coverage for all uninsured adults in the county. This is spearheaded by Dr. Peter Beilenson, founder of Health Care for All, with help from the Horizon Foundation.

Next meeting Oct. 16.